

THE LATEST HUMOR.

MRS. BROWN'S VISIT

TO THE

PARIS EXHIBITION.

WHAT THE OLD LADY SAW AND DID THERE.

BY ARTHUR SKETCHLEY,

AUTHOR OF "THE BROWN PAPERS."

PART III.

(Continued from yesterday's issue.)

We'd had a late breakfast, and so I got some refreshments at a place in the Bore, as come to a good deal, tho' only a bottle of beer and a roll with a bit of sausage, as they give us ready enough; and then I says to Mrs. Archbutt, "But suppose as we was to walk Paris way a-bit."

"Oh," she says, "I should like to see it above everything."

"So says," "Well, it's a good many stairs."

"It's all werry fine for to talk of takin' it easy, but there's some things as you can't take easy, and stairs is one on 'em, for I'm sure I took them stairs crawlin' like, and 'adn't hardly no breath left when 'arf way up, and as to Mrs. Archbutt, when she got to the top, I thought as die she would."

"So a-seem' 'er that bad, I goes to 'er and nties 'er bonnet, and if the wind didn't take it clean off 'er 'ead, bonnet, cap, 'air and all, as she got fastened in."

"If you'd 'eard 'er scream, and me too, you'd 'ave thought we was killed. Up come some parties as showed as they was'n ladies and gentlemen, for they roared with laughter as soon as they see Mrs. Archbutt a-settin' there 'elpless in 'er bonnet."

"It wasn't no use me a-sayin' as I werry sorry, for she wouldn't 'ear reason, and kep' a-sayin' as it would be 'er death. I tied 'er pocket-ankerker and mine over 'er 'ead the best as I could, and as soon as she'd got 'er breath, down we goes, and all the way 'ome she kep' on at me a-sayin' 'er bonnet was quite as good as new, as is only a covered shape, and never become 'er thro' 'eim' blue, as she's as yaller as a guinea, and not suit with blue, and could show her nose anywheres without 'er 'air, as was a dreadful old gasey with the parlin' all wore out; and I'm sure she'd look all the better in a new one, as we was a-goin' to get 'er at once; but she'd got that awful cold with the rheumatics in 'er 'ead, as bed was 'er place all the next day, and a nice job I 'ad a-nursin' 'er, as cross as two sticks, and that wild with Archbutt, as said she ought to know better than go a-climbin' up places with 'er weight; and so we 'ad to put off our journey to Wersales, as was as well, for the weather was werry lowery."

"It was towards evenin' as Miss Tredwell she come in and says, "Oh, we've 'ad such a delightful day, and been to see all them lovely pictures as they've got in the Louver, as is a place as you've got to see, Mrs. Brown, but I p'raps, won't understand, as is that classical."

"So I says, "Sue the Louver, in course, I 'ave often, as I don't consider a decent place for a female; and I'm sure parties as it belongs to 'ave them pictures finished proper, and put the clothes on them heathen creatures, as is left a-standin' there without a rag to cover 'em, tho' certinly fine-limbed figgers; but I don't 'old with them bold ways myself—not as they looks much like 'uman bein's, as I can see, but, in course, was different in them days."

"So Miss Tredwell says, as all she cared to look at was the kings and queens, and sich like."

"Yes," I says, "they certinly do 'ave fine 'eads of 'air, and such like, and means," as no wonder, 'avin' to stand bare-'eaded in the open 'air, as you see 'em in them pictures, and some 'em 'avin' to ride thro' the town with nothin' on but a 'ead of 'air, like the lady at Coventry on 'er bare-backed steed, as goes thro' Coventry once a-year. Now, I've 'eard say as Peeping Tom got struck blind for a-darin' to look out of the window at 'er, as certinly wasn't decent behavior."

"So Miss Tredwell she says, "Oh, Mrs. Brown, 'ow can you be so coarse a illudin' to sich subject afore the opposite sex," for we was a-settin' all together over our tea a-chattin' agreeable."

"Brown, he, in course, jined agin me, so I didn't say no more; but next time that that impudent mix' as the cramps, she may 'oller for me, as she won't find a-gettin' out of my bed in a 'urry agin for 'er."

"It was agreed as we was to go to Wersales in the mornin', as Mrs. Wells said as she was glad 'ad been put off, thro' 'avin' not 'ad 'er things as was lost in the train till that werry day, and certinly 'ad not been a figger for to go to no grand sights."

"I don't think as ever I did 'ear quite sich a grumbler as that old Wells; the row as he made over 'is meals, a-lookin' fault with every-thing, a-sayin' as the 'am werry too salt, and the tea not strong, and the coffee thick, as were not true, for I'm a-partickler as anybody; and tho' of course, things wasn't as nice as if 'you'd only a small family, they was all good and wholesome, and quite as good as ever he got at 'ome; for I'm sure there was 'is betters there a-takin' of tea and cold meat quite thankful, as it's wonderful they could supply such a party so well; and while we was at tea, there was a large party in the next room, as were a school a-singin' beautiful all together, and werry nice it sounded. But somehow I was a little tired, went to bed in good time, well a-knowin' as I'd a 'ard day's work afore me."

"I never did see nothink grander in my life than that Notter Dam, as is the big Paris church, and somethin' like one, too, and that church, and all lovely, though Miss Tredwell kep' a-runnin' on it down, and a-sneerin' at, and sayin' as she didn't 'old with it."

"I says, "In my opinion you did ought for to stop 'outin' as ain't fit to be in a sacred place like this, as parties is a-sayin' of their prayers in, and you a-goin' on like that."

"Oh," she says, "it's all superstition."

I says, "And what do you think as they would say about your way?" I says, "If you don't like it you can leave it, as nobody asked you to come in; and I says 'if I'd my way I'd precious soon 'ave you out."

Just then Brown came up with us as 'ad been to the top of the tower, as I didn't seem to see a-goin' up myself, and as to Mrs. Archbutt, she quite 'oller'd out at the bare thought, no doubt a-rememberin' of her bonnet."

Well Brown 'ad been up all the way along with Archbutt, and when he ketch'd Miss Tredwell a-jeerin' and a-larin' at the church, and give 'er sech a-settin' down as made 'er take to the sulks, and walks 'erself out of the church, as it wasn't the place for 'er."

Of all the lovely things as ever you see, it's the clothes as the ministers wear, and the plate as is gold, and was all stolo and throwed into the river by thieves in a net for to 'ide it, as marked the spot where they'd sunk it by a cork as was tied to the net, so in course didn't float down the stream, as is a tremendous current, and so caught the eye of some one as was on the look-out, and if they didn't fish up all the lot, as was a nice sell for them rascally thieves, and glad I was to 'ear it, the wagabones, tho' it's no wonder, as they'd like to have them as is that valuable, not as they're too good, for nothink can't be when you come to think what they're intended for, and werry solemn too; and they was a-begimmin' to sing lovely with the organ, as I stopped and listened to, and who should we meet in that church but Mr. Ditcher, as I 'adn't seen afore not this time as we'd been in Paris, and glad to see 'im, a-knowin' as he'd show us every-thing; for Brown, he'd walked off with Archbutt, through not a-carin' for to see them things."

When we got out there was Miss Tredwell a-sayin' as she was ready for to die with tiredness."

"Well, then," I says, "take a 'buss to where we've agreed to meet," as was that English place near the Magalin."

"She says as she shouldn't think of going alone."

"Well, then," I says, "be civil and come along with us as is a-goin' to look at one or two things more as is near at 'and," and Mr. Ditcher 'ad promised to take us to, as is 'is good-natured ways; so we went to see the 'ally de Justice, as the Saint Chapel, as one of them French kings brought from the Holy Land, as is werry ancient, and I'm sure they place as he did used to say 'is prayers in, as he could look thro' into the chapel by a little 'ole, was a nice dungeon of a place; and talkin' of dungeons reminds me as Mr. Ditcher got us in for to see the Consurgery, where the poor dear French Queen were kep' for two nights and a day afore they murdered 'er, by a-draggin' 'er on a cart to the scaffoldin', with 'ardly a rag to 'er back."

"I give me quite a turn when I see the awful place, as it were, for to keep any one in, let alone a queen, as bore all that meek, for I know werry well as I'd have to see them willas of soldiers' eyes out, as never left 'er alone a moment, but set there a-watchin' 'er, the un-decent wagabones, as wasn't men, but devils, I do believe. I felt that sorry for 'er as I could 'ave kissed the ground as she trod upon, to think of what she must 'ave suffered, as I've seen the pictures of 'er with a 'ead of 'air all piled up and powdered, a-settin' in state like a queen, and then another as showed 'er in that dungeon a-waitin' for death, as must 'ave been a 'appy release indeed."

"I 'ope as it wasn't wicked on me for to feel glad when they showed us the dungeon next to 'em, where they shet up in 'is turn one of the 'ead willas, for as 'ad done it all in the name of Robberspurg, as died in 'is agony with 'is jaw-bone broke afore they cut 'is good-for-nothin' 'ead off; and I do say, if I was the French I wouldn't allow none of them pictures to be showed as represents them awful times, as is a downright disgrace to 'uman nature, as is bad enough, goodness knows."

"I was glad to get out of that place, as is a prison now, and I see them prisoners thro' a gratin' as was a-waitin' for their dinner or somethin' to eat; and if give me quite a turn to look at 'em, and took werry good care not to be out last, for fear as 'ad done it all in the name of Robberspurg, as died in 'is agony with 'is jaw-bone broke afore they cut 'is good-for-nothin' 'ead off; and I do say, if I was the French I wouldn't allow none of them pictures to be showed as represents them awful times, as is a downright disgrace to 'uman nature, as is bad enough, goodness knows."

"By the time as we'd done that we was reglar done up, and glad for to ketch a 'buss as took us to the Magalin; and there we met the others as 'ad been elsewhere, and glad I was for to 'ave a good draught of beer and some cold meat, for I can't stand the wish-wash wittles and drink as the French likes in, and as don't seem to me as I think, you're a-hornament to your set."

"Mr. Ditcher, he was along with us, and said as they was considered fine things for the chest, as I'd got a nasty cold on myself, so I agreed as I'd 'ave some. It give me a bit of a turn when they brought 'em, and a little fork a-purpose to pick 'em out with; and nasty back stuff it looked as we did pick it out, and we all agreed as we'd taste 'em together. So Mr. Ditcher, as is full of his fun and uncommon good company, he says, "Now, then, all together," and we all put the bits as we 'ad on our forks into our mouths simultaneous. I never 'ad taste nothink like it, and 'opes as I never shall I did look at nobody else, but I rushes to the window, and so did all the rest; and it wasn't till we'd 'ad brandy round with one on us could touch a bit more dinner; but I will say as them frogs as they eats is nice, that delicate as you might think it was fine small rabbit; not as they're things as I cares about, nor yet about rabbits, partickler them. Oustend ones, as I don't believe is rabbits at all in my 'art."

"I never didn't taste no mice, as I'm sure I never should fancy, as must always be a faint smell, tho' I've 'eard say thro' a uncle of mine as 'ad puppy-dog pie and relish it, but good beef and nutmeg is I think, as I cares about, with lamb and veal occasions for a change, tho' I will say as you gets beautiful meat in France, tho' as is the reason as many is drove to mice and frogs. Their vegetables, they're delicious, but most parties wants a bit of meat once a-day."

"Never shall I forget the row as I 'ad at one of them restorongs at the Exhibition over a bit of beef as they brought me that coarse and underdone, quite soddened as I didn't fancy; and me and Mrs. Archbutt felt peckish at one, and agreed as we'd take a somethin' else. Well, I was for Splers and Ponds, but she says, "Oh, no," she says, "we can 'ave English dinners when at 'ome; let's dine à la mode de Paris."

"I says, "None of your à la mode for me," as is a thing as I never would touch, not even out of the à la mode beef shops of London, let alone Paris."

"Oh," she says, "we'll have a somethin' as is ready," and so I looks at the cart as I couldn't haberd, the more I didn't understand. So I beed, "Oh, bother, stop that," I says, "roast back with two plates on it, and a lump of mashed tater by the side, as must 'ave been laid overboard, and then won't never mash, but when I see the meat, I says, "What you call?"

"He says, "Ah, Oh, yes." As was all the English as the idiot know'd, tho' they'd wrote up "English spoke 'ere."

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much more than three farthin's day, as don't go far in tobacco and beer."

But he was the pride of 'er 'art, and took that pleasure in seein' 'im in 'is uniform, as I'm sure I should be werry sorry for to see a-boy of mine in, as is a disgracement, and I can't a-bear the sight of them red breeches; and as to bein' a sojer, it was nearly the death of me when my 'er listed, but the French is different, thro' 'eim' a blood-thirsty race; and Mr. Ditcher said as this poor old sojer seemed quite out up when her son's time was up as never settled down steady like, but wouldn't take no pleasure in 'is work, as were a cabinet-maker by trade; but, law, 'owever can you expect any one to settle down to work arter bein' a sojer."

Well, this young fellow he fell in love with a werry nice young gal, as 'er father wouldn't 'ear on it, and 'ad agreed as she was to marry another party, as she didn't care nothink about; and the poor gal she took it to 'er 'art, as for to go and pison 'erself. And Mr. Ditcher said as he should never forget that young man's face the night as she died, as was only four days ago; and he come into 'is mother's shop, and kissed 'er, a-lookin' ghastly white, and says, "Good night, mother."

"She says, "Where are you goin' to-night, Antoine?"

"He only says, "To bed—to sleep;" and out he goes, but never went to bed, and only to 'is long sleep, for he didn't come in to breakfast in the mornin'; and then some one come and told the poor old lady, as the young gal, her son's sweet 'art, 'ad pisoned 'erself the night afore."

"Then she says, "My boy is dead too; I know it—I know it;" and if she didn't rush out of the place, and went down to that Morg, but there wasn't no body of her son there. But she wouldn't give it up, but come agin twice that day, and the last thing the next mornin', without findin' 'im, as was only brought in just afore we went in to see it, and that's 'ow it were as we see 'er."

"I do believe I felt as much for that poor soul as if she 'adn't been a foreigner, as 'er poor, pale, distracted face 'anted me; and I says, when I got 'ome, as I'd never go to see no more Morgs, and, before the week was out, Mr. Ditcher told me as the poor old lady were dead, and no doubt a broken 'art, as I'm sure it would be my death for to see a boy of mine a-layin' in that dreadful place, as I can't get the sight out of my eyes night nor day."

"And we see the 'ospital, as looks like a pallis, and thousand of 'em poor creatures a-sufferin' there, as is called God's house; and so it is, for comfortin' and relievin' them as is afflicted, and I'm sure them good sisters as nusses them day and night for love, is a beautiful sight alone, and to think of any one a-doin' on it for strangers, as is a painful duty to a friend; and that quiet and nice in their ways, as is such a comfort in a sick room, and not to be neglected as some of our sick, as whatever can you expect when some of them 'ospital nusses did used to be downright wretches, as would rob and ill-use the sick, as 'ad 'oped to see 'is Brass many years ago, as I remember, in a 'ospital, as died neglected, and only found out thro' a poor gal as was in the same ward as told of their goin's on; but there's some, I'm told, as is werry good, and improvin' every day."

"Miss Tredwell, she didn't seem for to care about the 'ospital, and she says, "I do believe, Mrs. Brown, as you're a downright reglar nuss."

"Well," I says, "and what if I am—where's the 'arm' and you may be glad on my 'elp afore you dies;" and I walks on, and we leaves the 'ospital; and I makes my obeidance to one of them sisters, and says, "It's sorry I am, not for to be able to take you, as I think, you're a-hornament to your set."

"Mr. Ditcher told 'er in French, and she shook 'ands with me quite freely, as I felt more proud on than if she'd been a queen."

"By the time as we'd done that we was reglar done up, and glad for to ketch a 'buss as took us to the Magalin; and there we met the others as 'ad been elsewhere, and glad I was for to 'ave a good draught of beer and some cold meat, for I can't stand the wish-wash wittles and drink as the French likes in, and as don't seem to me as I think, you're a-hornament to your set."

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He says, "May wee say filly." I could swear them was 'is words."

"I says, "I thought so; filly indeed. I won't eat none of your 'orselish," I says. "Come on, Mrs. Archbutt."

"Well, that waiter, he danced about us and says, "pay ya," I says, "Jammy." He calls another as ketch'd 'old of my medicine. I give 'im a shove as sent 'im agin another as were carryin' a lot of glasses, and sent 'im backwards on a table full of glasses, and they fetches in one of them perloes, and a interpreter as stood me out as filly meant roas beef. So I had to pay, for there wasn't no standin' agin that fellow, as would swear anythink, for I do believe as in that Exhibition they was all alike, them as would say anythink but their prayers, and them they whistles, as the sayin' is; and all I've got to say is, I shan't trust myself in none of them restorongs no more alone, for I'm sure that waiter, he looked as if he could 'ave murdered me, and I do think as he would, only I'd got 'old of my umbrella that firm as looked determined, and so I was to 'ave give 'im a topper if he'd touched me agin, for as I says to him, "Paw off, Pompey," as is French, I know, for I don't 'old with bein' pulled about by nobody, let alone with their greasy fingers, as left a mark on my sleeve as it was, tho' certinly they are beautiful clean in the general way, and their linen got up that white as never can be washed in cold water, the same as you may see them washerwomen in boats on the river by the 'undred a-washin' away, as wouldn't suit me, and it seems to me as them poor women works 'arder than the men a-sweepin' the streets, and sich like, as is work only fit for slaves, not but what some of them French is nearly as dark as niggers; and there was a young gal in the train with us the day as we was a-goin' to Wersales, as was a downright leetle, with a turbin on the top of 'er black wool, as spoke French jest like the white ones, as is what they never can do with the English, as shows as they must be all the same; for I'm sure the langwidge of them Christian Minstrels is downright foolishness, and I've 'eard 'em speak the same myself down by the Docks, when they wasn't up to their larks, with their bones and banjos, and all manner."

"They may talk about weather, but all as I've got to say of all the weather as ever I know'd, this 'ere Paris beats it 'oller—a-furries one day and a-freezin' the next."

"So I says, "My figger, mum, is p'raps as good as others, tho' I mayn't 'ave on a new 'ead of 'air and a 'at," and was a-goin' to get up, but, law, it was a 'ard struggle for me to get on my feet, thro' the seat bein' leather and that deep back, and I thought as I herd somethin' go snap in that petticoat, but give myself a shake, and all seemed right; so I walks on, and give Mrs. Archbutt a look, for I see 'er a-sneerin'; and jest as I were a-crossin' of the open court, I give a stumble thro' a-ketchin' my foot in somethin' as I couldn't make out, and away I went down such a crash on all fours; and when they picked me up there was that jumpin' as 'ad slipped down round my feet, and throwed me over."

"I says, "Whatever do you mean?"

"Oh," she says, "one of them spring petticoats."

"I says, "No crinoline for me."

"She says, "Not a crinoline, but," she says, "I'll show you," and runs to 'er room and fetches one as was only a crinoline on a small scale arter all."

"There," she says, "it's jest enough to make your musing set helegant, and you're welcome to it."

"I says, "What are you a-going' to do without 'er?"

"Oh," she says, "my dress as I'm a-goin' to wear ain't made for it, so do take it, for I shan't wear it no more."

"Well, I must say as when I come to put that musing on it did look werry dabby, for in iron' of it out they'd been damped it, so as it was as limp as a rag; so I let Miss Tredwell put me on the jumpin', and I wore only a light jacket as looked werry nice, tho' I must say as it were werry summery, but it was a 'ot sun 'tho' 'eavy clouds about."

"I thought as I must 'ave bust out a-larin' in Mrs. Archbutt's face, for if she 'adn't gone and run on a 'at the same as Mrs. Wells 'ad got, and a new wig as curled at the back, Miss Tredwell, she'd words with Mrs. Wells jest as we was a-startin', thro' a-sayin' as Mrs. Wells 'ad got 'er parysol, as they'd bought 'em new together the day before."

"Of all the hold fools as ever I did know, it's that Archbutt, as will always contradict you about the shortest way, and I'm sure the time as he kep' us a-waitin', with 'im a spreadin' the plan of Paris up agin a wall and a-disputin' about the way. Brown and Wells 'ad started, so I says to Miss Tredwell, "Let's go by the train, the same as we did yesterday;" and so she agreed, and while old Archbutt was a-talkin' we sloped on as quiet as the sayin' is, and got to the train."

"As soon as ever I were at the station I felt the wind a-blowin' that cool thro' my musing as I says, "Miss Tredwell, I must go back for a warm shawl."

"We'd took our tickets, and jest at that moment in come the train, and Miss Tredwell says, "I'll lend you my shawl," and 'urries me down the stairs."

"Of all the ill-convenient trains to get into it's them second-class French, for the sides is so steep and the steps that narrer as I couldn't 'rdly climb up at all; but the carriages inside is comfortable 'tho' narrer."

"Of all the roundabouts it is that way of goin' to the Exhibition, as seems for to whisk you all round Paris, tho' it gets you there at last."

"We was determined, Miss Tredwell and me, for to 'ave a good look at the jewels, as is splendid. I never did see nothink more lovely than a lot as belongs to a Countess."

"Ah," I says, "fine feathers makes fine birds, but they don't make 'appy ones;" so I 'opes as them diamonds isn't got at the price of a 'artache, for I'm told them French 'usbands is a awacious lot, a-goin' on all manner, and a-givin' of them diamonds to their favorites by the bushel, and often a-neglectin' of their wives."

"I says to Miss Tredwell, "Do look there," I says, "ow careless to be sure, for to leave them lovely jewels there, for a-laying outside on the top of one of them glass-cases there was diamonds and rubies, as big as the top of your finger, as anybody might take."

"The gentleman as was a-standin' there were verry perlit, and he smiles and draws 'is 'and along the case, and if them 'jewels wasn't inside stuck to the glass."

"I says, "I'd 'ave sworn they couldn't 'ave been picked up."

"Yes," she says, "and you ain't the only one as thought so, and throwed 'er ankercher the other day, and throwed 'er a bracelet for to take up attention, a-thinkin' to take 'em."

"What," I says, "collar the lot? Eh! I hope you don't call sich a individual a lady, as must be only a fieldmaid, whether English or French."

"That gentleman only smiled, and were that perlit as to show me some lovely things as the Hempter 'ad bought for 'is good 'lady; and I'm sure nobody don't ought to be seen in such things but queens and princesses, as, in course, must be that dressed for to look like themselves."

For my part, I do think as the imitations is a deal more showy than the real ones, and, of course, you'd get more for your money; but then, in case of a rainy day, where are you? 'Whil then lords and dukes can't never be 'ard up, as long as they've got them things to make the money on at a pinch."

"I don't think as ever I did see sich a lot of bedsteads and sideboards and one thing and the other, as parties can't know what to do with if they 'ad 'em; and altogether the place is that confusin' that you're quite bewildered, and as to findin' your way about, why you're always a-comin' back to the same place; least-ways, we was, for that Miss Tredwell kep' a-leadin' me wrong. And there was a pulpit as was stuck in the middle of one passage as we was always a-comin' to, till I got that wild as I couldn't bear it no longer, so takes my own way, and walks thro' the pictures, and come out in the middle like; and glad I was for to see a seat, and set down all of a 'urry for there wasn't no werry want. I 'adn't no idea as it sloped back slippy like, and there I was a-settin' without my feet a-touchin' the ground."

"I was that tired as I didn't care about nothink, and see a good many idiots grinnin' as is their French ways, for they will laugh at anythink, as is what I calls a frivolous lot."

"So I says to Miss Tredwell, "Don't take no notice, let 'em grin;" and we'd set there, I should think, 'arf a 'our, when who should come up but Brown and Mr. Wells."

"So Brown says, "Hallo! Martha, draw it mild!"

"I says, "Whatever do you mean?"

"Why," he says, "you're a-settin' showin' your feet like anythink."

"I says, "They're my own."

"Yes," he says, "but you needn't come the Menken over us; for, tho' werry good feet in their way, they ain't much to look at."

"Jest at the same moment up came Mrs. Archbutt and Mrs. Wells, as both exclaimed, "For goodness' sake, Mrs. Brown, do get up, you're such a figger! Why, we've seen your feet for ever so far off, a good way over your boot tops."

"I was rather put out by Mrs. Archbutt's ways, as she was evident put out at me 'avin' started afore 'er."

"So I says, "My figger, mum, is p'raps as good as others, tho' I mayn't 'ave on a new 'ead of 'air and a 'at," and was a-goin' to get up, but, law, it was a 'ard struggle for me to get on my feet, thro' the seat bein' leather and that deep back, and I thought as I herd somethin' go snap in that petticoat, but give myself a shake, and all seemed right; so I walks on, and give Mrs. Archbutt a look, for I see 'er a-sneerin'; and jest as I were a-crossin' of the open court, I give a stumble thro' a-ketchin' my foot in somethin' as I couldn't make out, and away I went down such a crash on all fours; and when they picked me up there was that jumpin' as 'ad slipped down round my feet, and throwed me over."

"I says, "Whatever do you mean?"

"Oh," she says, "one of them spring petticoats."

"I says, "No crinoline for me."

"She says, "Not a crinoline, but," she says, "I'll show you," and runs to 'er room and fetches one as was only a crinoline on a small scale arter all."

"There," she says, "it's jest enough to make your musing set helegant, and you're welcome to it."

"I says, "What are you a-going' to do without 'er?"

"Oh," she says, "my dress as I'm a-goin' to wear ain't made for it, so do take it, for I shan't wear it no more."